



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107**

JUN 19 1991

SUBJECT: Determination of Threat to Public Health
or Welfare or the Environment at the Murd
Company Site in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

FROM: George W. English, OSC
Eastern Response Section (3HW31)

TO: Abraham Ferdas, Director
Office of Superfund (3HW02)

1. **Site Name and Location:** Murd Company
2314 N. American Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2. **Owner/Operator:** Mr. Arthur Haines
3. **Population Information:** 200 persons (estimated) within one block radius.
4. **Access:** Restricted. Site is fenced to the south, American Street doors locked at all times.
5. **Coordination with other Authorities:**

Local Contact: Capt. J. Kerrigan, Philadelphia Fire Department	Other Contact: Leslie Fields, Philadelphia Fire Department
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6. **Site Characteristics:** Site consists of a two story building approximately 100 x 150 and in poor condition, with several leaks in the roof, drums of hazardous substances are improperly stored in the building.
7. **Hazardous Substances Present:** Cresylic Acid, hydrofluoric acid, lead nitrate, calcium hypochlorite.
8. **Threat to Public Health or Welfare or the Environment:**
(References are to Section 300.65 of the NCP)

300.65(b)(2)(i)	Actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants by nearby populations, animals, or food chain.
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AR100070

Explanation: Drums containing incompatible materials are improperly stored and leaking. This could result in a reaction of materials and a release of these hazardous substances into the air.

300.65(b)(2)(ii) Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage container, that may pose a threat of release.

Explanation: Drums of incompatible materials are stored together and are in poor condition. Some are rusted through and appear to be leaking.

300.65 (b)(2)(iii) Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released.

Explanation: The leaking roof has resulted in an increased rate of corrosion of the drums.

300.65(b)(2)(iv) Threat of fire or explosion.

Explanation: The area has a history of arson and vandalism. There are no sprinklers in the building. Building is in poor condition and is considered a fire hazard by the Philadelphia Fire Department. Additionally, should drums of incompatibles react, this may cause an explosion.

9. Supporting Documents

The Administrative Record for this site.

10. Recommendation

Because of the factors outlined above, I have determined that a threat to the public health or welfare or the environment exists at the site, and I recommend that the site be found to pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, welfare and the environment. This recommendation has been coordinated with the appropriate designee within EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response pursuant to the requirements of Delegation 14-14-A (dated October 12, 1989). AR 100071

11. Action by the Approving Official:

I have reviewed the above-stated facts and based upon those facts and the information compiled in the documents described above, I hereby determine that the release of threatened release of hazardous substances at and/or from the site presents or may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment.


Abraham Ferdas, Director
Office of Superfund

Date

6/19/90

AR100072